

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in the commencement exercises of the School District's graduating class is a privilege. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school administration shall exercise plenary control over all aspects of any graduation ceremony held within the district. The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing; the valedictorian and salutation will be selected to speak. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their choosing. The principal shall review and approve the student's address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their choosing prior to its presentation to the audience attending the graduation ceremony to ensure that there is no conflict with the Establishment Clause found in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, The Idaho Constitution or the laws of the state of Idaho.

Graduates are not required to participate in the Commencement Exercises, but if they decide to do so, the following rules will apply:

1. THE GRADUATION CEREMONY WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.
2. No decorations on the tassels, gowns or mortarboards.
3. Boys are to wear dress slacks and dress shirts. (No T-shirts, sweat shirts). Ties are optional.
4. Girls may wear skirts and blouses or dresses or nice dress slacks.
5. Dress shoes are recommended. Cowboy boots may be worn, however, refrain from wearing tennis shoes, running shoes, or inappropriate sandals such as thongs.
6. Wear mortarboards level, not tilted.

7. No sunglasses during the ceremony.
8. No party items (silly string, beach balls, water guns, fire crackers etc).
9. Anyone having difficulty providing shoes or other dress items let the office know.

Legal Reference:

United States Constitution-1st Amendment
Art. 9, Sec. 6, Idaho Constitution – Religious Test and Teaching in School
Prohibited
I.C. § 33-1603 Sectarian Instruction Forbidden
I.C. § 33-512 Governance of Schools
I.C. § 67-5909 Acts Prohibited

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 10, 2008

Revised on:

Reviewed in: October 2013